

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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DEPT OF JUSTICE JAMES ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, CZ

SUBJECT: HARASSMENT OF MRS. ALEXANDRA STRAUSS, WIFE

OF MR. ALES STRAUSS, FIRST SECRETARY OF CZECHOSLOVAK MISSION.

1. WE HAVE NOTE VERBALE DATED FEB 17 FROM CZECHOSLOVAK
MISSION INFORMING OF HARASSMENT OF MRS. ALEXANDRA STRAUSS,
WIFE OF MR. ALES STRAUSS, FIRST SECRETARY OF CZECH
MISSION. TEXT OF NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE
2353/76

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO
THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS THE
HONOUR TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:
AFTER LEAVING THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNION OF
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT 136 EAST
67TH STREET ON 16 FEBRUARY 1976 AT ABOUT 12:40 NOON AND
PROCEEDING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE LEXINGTON AVENUE MRS.
ALEXANDRA STRAUSS, WIFE OF MR. ALES STRAUSS, FIRST SECRETARY
OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PERMANENT MISSION WAS APPROACHED AT THE
CORNER OF THE 67 TH STREET BY TWO YOUNG PEOPLE, A MALE AND A
FEMALE OF ABOUT 16-18 YEARS OLD, WHO STARTED SHOUTING POLITICAL
OBSCENITIES AT HER AND THREATENED TO MURDER HER. THE FEMALE
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WAS TWISTING MRS. STRAUSS'S HAND AND THE MALE PRESSED SOME-

THING BETWEEN HER SHOULDERS FROM BEHIND. SHE WAS AFRAID TO
TURN BACK AND, THEREFORE DID NOT SEE WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IT WAS;
SHE TOLD THE PAIR TO LEAVE HER ALONE OTHERWISE SHE WOULD CALL
POLICE. THEY REPLIED THAT SHE WOULD BE SOONER DEAD THAN
BE ABLE TO CALL A POLICEMAN. AT THAT MOMENT A POLICE CAR
APPEARED ON LEXINGTON AVENUE. MRS. STRAUSS MANAGED TO WAVE
HER FREE HAND AND ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICEMEN,
THE POLICE CAR STOPPED, MRS. STRAUSS PULLED HERSELF FREE AND RAN TO
THE
POLICE CAR WHERE SHE TOLD THE POLICEMEN WHAT HAS HAPPENED.
IN THE MEANTIME THE TWO ATTACKERS DISAPPEARED. THE POLICEMEN
STARTED TO LOOK FOR THEM. MRS. STRAUSS REACHED THE CZECHOSLOVAK
MISSION AND IS STILL SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS NERVOUS SHOCK.
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS EXPECTS THAT THIS INHUMAN
ACT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND THREAT OF MURDER TO
BE INVESTIGATED IN A MOST THOROUGH MANNER AND THOSECRI-
MINAL OFFENDERS PUNISHED.

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS REQUESTS THE UNITED
STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO LOOK SERIOUSLY
INTO THIS GRAVE INCIDENT WITH A VIEW TO SECURING THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PERMANENT MISSION'S MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM
SUCH ASSAULTS.

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO RENEW TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

NEW YORK, 17 FEBRUARY 1976
UNQUOTE

2. WE HAVE REQUESTED POLICE REPORT ON INCIDENT AND WILL
TRANSMIT REPORT AND INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS AT
EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.
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